

Wilson says, "an active involvement by program managers."

The Challenge

Concluding his remarks, Wilson enjoined the graduates to "look at how you can deliver your program or project faster." Whether in industry or government, Wilson urged them to:

- Consciously separate technology development from acquisition.
- Commit to an evolutionary acquisition approach as the standard from which DoD will do business from now on.
- Advocate modeling and simulation to further Simulation Based Acquisition.
- Advocate and seek as fully and completely as possible the funding that will allow a program to be quickly and efficiently executed.

"By cutting acquisition cycle times, our nation will reap many benefits," Wilson concludes. "We will spend money only on what we need; we will field only state-of-the-art technology; and we will avoid the unstable budgets and creeping requirements for which DoD has been notorious." But more importantly, he notes, "We will save taxpayers' dollars, and we will get better equipment into the hands of the warfighter — *faster*."

Wilson reminded the graduates that while *today* they're leading programs as senior managers in government and industry, *tomorrow* they'll be leading the Department and private industry as senior leaders. "I'm asking you to take up this challenge and run with it," he told the graduates, "not only through the life cycles of your programs (which I hope will be short), but as you implement your own visions of defense policies. If you do, we will be prepared for whatever may emerge from tomorrow's headlines."

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IN MEMORIAM



James W. "Jim" Leaf, an electronics technician-technical advisor in the Professional Development Department, Faculty Division, DSMC, died March 18 after a brief illness. A native of upstate New York, Leaf enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1960, where he served for five years. After operating his own electronic repair business for 10 years in Utica, N.Y., and for three years in Arlington, Va., he began his federal career in 1979 as an electronics mechanic at Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va. In August 1982, he joined DSMC as an electronics technician in the Audiovisual Support and Electronics Maintenance Division. More recently, he worked in the Education Department, Faculty Division, where he managed the technical aspects of DSMC's first Video TeleTeaching (VTT) linkup in June 1997. Leaf is survived by his wife, Suzanne, as well as two sons, a daughter, and eight grandchildren.